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Academic Policy Committee Report - January 8, 2015

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ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT
Thursday, January 8, 2015, 2:15 – 3:30 P.M.
Graduate School Conference Room, 111 Student Services Building

Present: Mary Albrecht (ex-officio, Associate Vice Provost), Mehmet Aydeniz, Pat Freeland (Chair, Graduate Council), Stephanie N. Galloway (Assistant Dean of Graduate School), Paul Gellert, Carolyn Hodges (ex officio, Dean of Graduate School), Stefanie Ohnesorg (Chair, APC), Joan Rentsch, Marian Roman, Jessica Welch (Graduate Student Senate)

The meeting was called to order by Stefanie Ohnesorg, Chair, at 2:15 p.m. There were no Minutes to approve.

1. Report on Dual Programs and SACSCOC Guidelines / Update Regarding Interpretation 2.7.1
Mary Albrecht

Albrecht reported on a meeting with SACSCOC in early December 2014 in Atlanta.

SACSCOC wrote broad policy but never really intended to penalize our dual bachelors-masters programs.

SACSCOC will form a study group and revise the policy. There is no timeline for formulating new guideline.

As of now, we can continue to double count up to 9 credit hours in approved dual-degree programs that are deemed "accelerated programs" by SACSCOC. In effect, we apply graduate hours to the undergraduate degree (in addition to counting these hours at the graduate level). All of this is regulated by a rigorous approval process (as stipulated in the individual program descriptions) to ensure that access to accelerated programs is only granted to students who meet all entrance criteria. It would be cleaner to call these programs accelerated because dual degree often refers to two degrees in two institutions.

All currently approved dual/accelerated programs can continue to admit students.

For the future, the APC may create a policy on accelerated programs so that individual proposals go to the Curriculum Committee. Dean Hodges noted the catalog just needs minor re-wording.

2. Report on accelerated (4+1 BS/MS degree programs) from Department of Animal Science and Department of Food Science

Related to item 1, Ohnesorg shared a 3-page report from these two departments on changes to their policy for accelerated BS-MS degrees, which includes double-counting of hours. Their report was accepted by the APC unanimously.

3. Leave of Absence considerations
a. Incompletes

Ohnesorg reported that per policy from the Registrar's Office, a grade of Incomplete will expire and turn into a grade of F after 1 year, regardless of LOA policy. Discussion ensued as some members questioned whether that is consistent with the LOA. Dean Hodges will discuss further with Registrar's Office.

Hodges would like APC to revisit policy on Incompletes with the goal of clarifying the policy in order to reduce the number of Incompletes in the Graduate School.

b. Health insurance

Welch asked whether students on LOA maintain health insurance. The answer is no. Health insurance is not continued because the student is not enrolled.

4. New business

Gellert proposed re-visiting the grading system at the graduate level to include minus and plus grades (like undergraduate). He inquired why this proposal was rejected in the past; reasons included worries about grade inflation and about B- affecting graduate student standing. Reportedly it was last discussed

approximately in 2009. Gellert was directed to investigate further to see if we should reopen the issue. Albrecht suggested he review the policy at other top 25 institutions.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.

Next meeting will be on February 5.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Gellert